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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/759,327 Confirmation No.: 8321  
Applicant : Kasthuri Venkateswaran  
Filed : 01/17/2004  
TC/A.U. : 1645  
Examiner : Tongue, Lakia J.  
Docket No. : CIT002  
Customer No. : 28848

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Examiner:

In response to the Office Action dated November 30, 2004, having a shortened-statutory response period extending through and including February 28, 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following remarks. **All amendments and remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including the certificate of deposit of the *Bacillus odysseyi* strain 34hs-1<sup>T</sup> with the Agricultural Research Culture Collection is attached following page 5 of this paper.